

From: Scholl, Gwen@DWR [mailto:Gwen.Scholl@water.ca.gov]
Sent: Thursday, January 17, 2013 9:31 AM
To: Samsam, Kevan@DeltaCouncil
Cc: LeCocq, Philip@DWR
Subject: Draft Delta Plan Language on SWP O&M Challenges

Hi Kevan,

Per our phone discussion, below is specific text in DSC's Delta Plan (3rd paragraph on page 93 on Chapt 3) that presents SWP O&M challenges. This is critical issue for the SWP and we are pursuing efforts to address it, so we greatly appreciate its mention in the Delta Plan to help raise awareness. However, we are concerned that some of the text currently included may be misleading: For example, "budgetary shortages" is not an issue as the funding is available to address several O&M challenges, but institutional restrictions preclude funding the necessary actions which is the key issue. Also the "smaller, less experienced staff" is not due to "ill-suited State contracting practices" as last sentences implies- these are two separate, but significant issues that limit the resources (equipment as well as staff) necessary to adequately perform O&M.

Therefore, we are requesting you include an edited version of the text far below in the Plan. (I believe Carl e-mailed Phil requesting these edits earlier, but the changes didn't make the current draft). Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks. Gwen

Current:

"A lesser-known challenge to Delta export reliability relates to the operations and maintenance of the large, complex facilities that make up the SWP. The SWP has experienced a significant and growing decline in operational reliability that has directly impacted DWR's ability to store and move water, produce electricity, and export water from the Delta when the appropriate hydrological conditions present themselves (DWR 2010b). These challenges include maintaining SWP delivery capabilities under continued manpower resource limitations, aging infrastructure constraints, and budgetary shortages. Challenges are also attributed to having a smaller, less experienced staff than comparable utilities due to severe recruitment and retention problems, ill-suited State contracting practices, and State hiring freezes (Torgersen 2012)."

Requested Edited Version:

Although lesser known, a critical current and alarmingly increasing challenge to Delta export reliability relates to the operations and maintenance of the large, complex facilities that make up the SWP. The SWP has experienced a significant and growing decline in operational reliability that has directly impacted DWR's ability to store and move water, produce electricity, and export water from the Delta when the appropriate hydrological conditions present themselves (DWR 2010b). These challenges include maintaining SWP delivery capabilities under continued manpower resource limitations, aging infrastructure constraints, and constraints in providing competitive employee compensation despite adequate SWP funding. The SWP's manpower resource limitations are illustrated by a smaller, less experienced staff than comparable utilities due to severe recruitment and retention problems largely attributable to the lack of competitive compensation. Further resource challenges are attributed to complex and cumbersome State contracting processes and State hiring freezes.

Gwen (Knittweis) Scholl, P.E.

Department of Water Resources

Executive Advisor, SWP Deputy Director's Office

Office (916) 653-5805

Cell (916) 704-2410